

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- From the President
- Christmas Party!
- November Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Puzzler
- DX Contests
- Christmas Wishes

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

I was pleased at the November meeting that we got a great group to lead our club next year. I appreciated all the effort that Rob and Kelley put into make this a good year. They really helped us have a great banquet this year even without power for part of it. I liked the new venue and caterer.

It was sad to see us have so many members become silent keys this year. I am pleased that we got them each a brick at the ARRL. I hope that continues to be a tradition for the club. It was great that GigaParts helped donate to that and the banquet this year. GigaParts is very generous with donations to our club.

Our club ended the year in great financial shape due in large part to Tom, N4KG donating all of his station to the club. I also appreciate all of you that helped get the equipment restored and sold to the hams that could use it. Because of that donation, Tom made a lot of people happy for this contest and DX season with their new additions to their stations. I'm sure Tom would also be pleased that his donation will go to sponsoring DXpeditions.

I look forward to helping Bob as President in the year ahead. Mark did a great job helping me. I am glad we have the opportunity to get new ideas to grow the club.

The propagation was much better for CQWW CW for my 160M single band high power entry than the SSB contest a month earlier. Friday night I had several nice Europe openings. I also worked one Japan station each morning at sunrise. Saturday night propagation was not near as good. The last hour of the contest was also good to Europe. QSB was a real issue during the contest. Some stations disappeared before the QSO was over. That made timing important for some QSOs. I appreciated those that hung in there.

My 2M amplifier project made some good progress over Thanksgiving. Most of the mechanical work is done. I enjoy the wiring and testing much more than the mechanical work since I don't have fancy metal working tools. I painted the front panel nickel which is a favorite of mine. I expect to continue to learn a lot with this project. This amplifier has 2 identical LDMOS amplifiers mounted on a single heat sink. I still have not decided whether to have one amp for 2M and the other for 6M or use both on 2M. A lot will have to do with how much power I can get from them. If I can run each over a KW on JT65 I will split them. I would like to have a KW for EME. I would also

Cont'd on p. 2

Christmas Party at Terranova

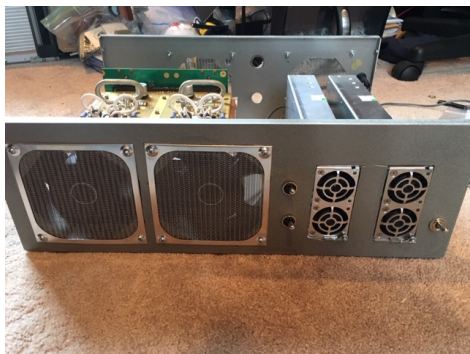
Don't miss it! The annual Christmas Party meeting of the NADXC will be held at Terranova near Gigaparts at 6:30pm this coming Tuesday, December 11th. We will NOT meet in the little room on the right where we've had the party in the past few years, so ask at the desk, or keep a directional ear open for ham jargon and triangulate. See you there!



From the President

(cont'd from p. 1)

like more power on 6M. My 200 watts doesn't work during certain propagation. I have heard more than I can work on both bands. I'm hoping it will make a difference and add to my country count in the next few years.



I also have planned several upgrades for the amplifier to include temperature monitoring with automatic fan control and automatic shutdown on faults. I will get one of the small Arduino kits to experiment with that has a nice display. This project will likely result in a few good presentations for the club this coming year.

I just completed some QSLs to reply to bureau cards. I am glad Stephen, KY4G volunteered to consolidate QSLs going to the ARRL this year. That is a great benefit to being a club member and I hope more use it in the coming year.

I hope everyone enjoys the holidays. I look forward to our December meeting.

73 Steve AG4W

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Steve Werner, AG4W
Vice President	Rob Suggs, NN4NT
Secretary/	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

November 13, 2018 NADXC Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ-NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Members present: 30

Walt AJ6T

VP6D 80m (last band needed)

Guests: 1

Review of Sign-in Sheet & DX worked:

Tom KG4CUY	VP6
Rob NN4NT	ATNO VP6D
Jim N4KH	VP6D, Z23
Stephen KK4TJP	KG4 15, 17, 40, 160, RI1, 4J3, HZ1 & BD4 17m, VP6D 15-40m, VP6D, 4J0GC, 5W06C 12m-160m VK9X6 (80CW L-P), A52IC (40CW), Z33MD(12-80CW), A52BH (40&30)
Kim WG8S	VP6D
Mark N4BCD	VP6D 11 band modes incl. 3 CW, bandfills E44WE, Z23MD, C31KC, EA9ABC
Steve AG4W	VP6D All Band

Announcements

Steve AG4W made some comments on the latest activities. VP6 was impressive with good coverage from 160 to 10 & 12m, even with zero sunspots. CQWW phone wasn't so great, although there were some short openings to Europe on 160. XT2 was workable on the low bands.

Tom Russell N4KG's estate has some antenna parts that left. Talk to Tim AB4B or Steve AG4W soon (!) if you want anything.

A list of radio-related items for sale by Bob Ellison (call sign?) was circulated among the members.

Stephen KK4TJP brought his 12-year-old harmonic, Sarah, to the meeting. He is still accepting QRZ cards to be sent through the ARRL Outgoing Bureau each month (for ARRL members). He also reminded DX Club members to make sure to have envelopes on file with your ARRL Incoming Bureau guy.

(www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service)

Membership Applications

Adrian KN4OKX and Karen KN4OOP Abshire were voted in to the DX Club. Welcome!

Treasurer's Report for October 2018

No transactions this month. The bank balance remains \$ 9,271.80 (\$60 in cash from N4KG's estate sales is awaiting deposit.)

The minutes and treasurer's report were approved by the membership.

More Announcements

Mark N4BCD announced that K4BFT placed #1 in 4A for the 2018 ARRL Field Day. This makes 8 times in 10 years the "Big Fat Turkey" has placed first. K4BFT also placed #5 overall for 2018.

The Huntsville Amateur Radio Club meeting location has changed to the new Red Cross Building on Airport Road at Memorial Parkway.

Cont'd on p. 3

Meeting Minutes

(cont'd from p. 2)

The nominating committee reported the following nominees agreeing to stand for office for 2019:

President: no one

VP: Warren K4MMW

Secretary/Treasurer: Chris AI4U

Director: Tom KG4CUI

Director: Kevin KG4TEI

(Ex Officio Director: Steve AG4W – automatic as previous Club President)

Several nominations for President were taken from the floor, but those declined. After some arm-twisting and cajoling, Bob K8KI agreed to serve as the Club's president for 2019. Thank you, Bob!

The officers for 2019 were approved by the membership and will serve for 2019.

Ballots for the North Alabama DX Club DXer of the Year were passed out. The plaque will be awarded at our Christmas party next month.

Last Announcements

Don't forget our Christmas dinner at Terranova's on Tuesday, December 11. Arrive at 6:30.

Gigaparts is having a Ham Radio Day this coming Saturday.

Don't forget CQWW CW over the Thanksgiving weekend.

The meeting adjourned for the program, John N5DF on coaxial cable loss measurements.

Puzzler

The perceptive LongPath reader will recognize this column as a new twist, and no doubt be suspicious that it's being used just to fill space. Nonetheless, circuits aficionados please read on.

The circuit on the left is a Hartley oscillator we're all familiar with, where L1 is a tapped autotransformer. The circuit on the right separates the coil into two parts, with no magnetic coupling. To oscillate at the same frequencies there will be adjustments to the values of the coils because of the lack of coupling in fig. 2, and to produce the same amount of feedback. The values of all other components are identical in the two circuits.

The puzzler's question is: Why is the harmonic content of the signal at the emitter of Q1 so much greater in fig. 2 than in fig. 1? The signals at the bases are both nice looking sinusoids with the first significant harmonic down 25 dB or so. But the signals at the emitters are very different. The Gilbert Cell mixer in which this circuit is embedded takes the signal from the base, so both circuits work just fine.

Those submitting the correct answer to the LongPath by the publication date of the January issue will receive one year's free email notification of the publication of upcoming issues.

November Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for November 2018

Beginning Balance	\$ 9,271.80
Ending Balance	\$ 9,271.80

[This is not a misprint, the report is the same as October's. Also, a LongPath reader wishes us to put on our thinking caps regarding this substantial bank balance, and suggest ways in which we might use part of these funds to further the mission of the NADXC in support ham radio in general and/or DXpeditions specifically. This is appropriate as new business at any meeting, and as the subject of a LongPath article. — Ed.]

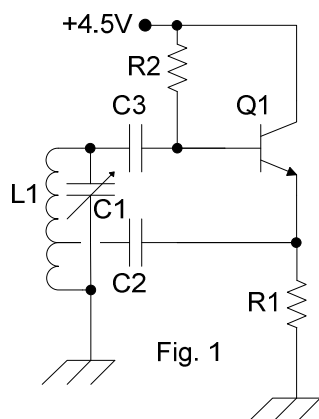


Fig. 1

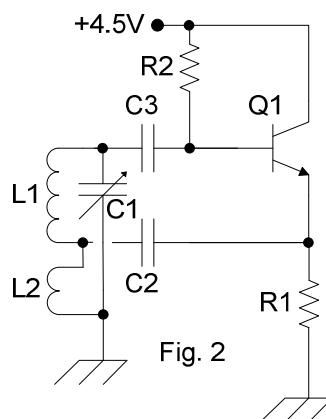


Fig. 2



DX Contests for November, 2018

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB & CW), 10 meters only

Dec. 8, 0000Z to Dec. 9, 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus State/Province;
DX: RS(T) + Ser. #

See page 70, Dec. QST and
www.arrl.org/10-meter

Russian 160 Meter Contest (CW/SSB) 160 meters

Dec.14, 2000Z to 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T)+ Serial #; Russian
Stns: RST + Oblast

See page 70, Dec. QST and
www.qrz.ru/contest

Croatian CW Contest, (CW), 160 – 10 meters

Dec. 15, 1400Z to Dec. 16 1400Z

Exchange: RST + SER. #

See page 70, Dec. QST and
www.9acw.org

OK DX RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10 meters

Dec 15, 0000Z to Dec. 15, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus CQ Zone

See page 70, Dec. QST and
www.crk.cz

RAEM Contest (CW), 80-10 meters

Dec. 23, 0000Z to 1200Z

Exchange: Serial # plus Lat/Long,
(e.g., 57N 85E)

See page 70, Dec. QST and
www.srr.ru/en/main

DARC Christmas Contest, (CW & SSB), 75/80 & 40 meters

Dec. 26, 0830Z to 1059Z

Exchange: RS(T) [+DOK or special
code for DL]

See page 70, Dec. QST or
www.darc.de

Worldwide Iron Ham contest (CW, SSB, & DIG), 80-10 meters

Dec. 26, 1200Z to Dec. 27, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus CQ Zone

See: page 69, Dec. QST and
www.ironham.com.br/?page_id=22

RAC Winter Contest (CW & PHONE), 160-2 meters

Dec 29, 0000Z to 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.; VEs
send RS(T) plus Province

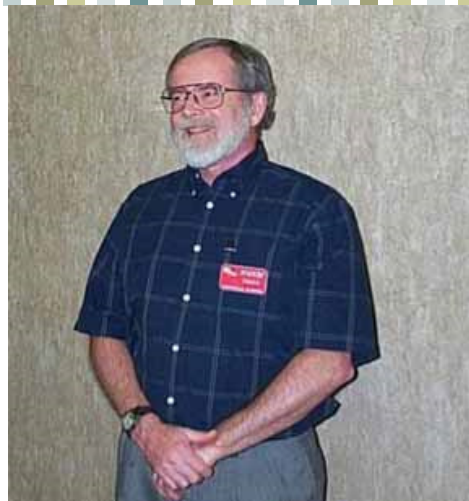
See page 70, Dec. QST and
www.rac.ca

Stew Perry Topband Distance Chal- lenge, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 29, 1500Z to Dec. 30, 1500Z

Exchange: 4 Char. Grid square

See page 70, Dec. QST and
www.kknnet/stew



OTHERS

EUCW 160m Contest

2000Z- 2300Z, Jan 5; and 0400Z to
0700Z, Jan 6

Dates & times often change or are mis-
printed in the journals; beware.

See also: [http://
www.contestcalendar.com//
contestcal.html](http://www.contestcalendar.com//contestcal.html)

Chuck, N4NM

LongPath Christmas Wishes

From the LongPath Staff

The LongPath Staff wishes hams far
and wide — but especially those loyal
LongPath readers of the NADXC — a
Merry Christmas and the best to you in
2019.

We're always on the lookout for ma-
terial. With new executive officers tak-
ing the helm in January, let's give them

help with our programs (new VP Warren
will be very appreciative), opinions
about suitable activities for the club,
and of course LongPath articles.

73 from the LongPath Staff

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

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Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Steve Werner, AG4W, From the President